COMMONWEALTH
OFFICE OF
TECHNOLOGY

COT Security Alert – Persistent Phishing Attack

COT Security Administration Branch has become aware of a phishing attack that is landing in state inboxes. The phishing email is meant to appear to be automatically generated and to come from “System Administrator” in order to trick users into believing it is legitimate. Several things can indicate to users that emails such as these are not legitimate. Two that apply in this case are:

1. They intend to receive personal or password information which will never be solicited this way by legitimate sources. Users will **never** be required to divulge this information for any reason to COT or system administrators. Passwords are **never** to be told or given to anyone.
2. Hovering over the link reveals an unfamiliar address. This may not always be the case in phishing emails, but when it does happen, it indicates the message is fake.

If users receive this email, they may move them to their Junk E-mail folder or delete them from their Inbox and Deleted Items folder.

Forwarding this to end-users will aid in awareness.

NOTICE: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats, vulnerabilities, software patches, etc. You should consult with your network administrator or other technical resources to ensure that the appropriate actions for these alerts are followed. If you are a network administrator and need additional information, please call the Help Desk at 502.564.7576.

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